



Legislative Bulletin.....April 24, 2001

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H.R. 428— Concerning the participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization (Brown, Sherrod)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered under a motion to suspend the rules on Tuesday, April 24th.

Summary: The bill would direct the Secretary of State to initiate a plan (submitted to Congress in unclassified form within two weeks of this bill’s passage) to obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual summit of the World Health Assembly next month in Geneva, Switzerland. The plan would then be implemented by the U.S. delegation to Geneva.

A similar bill in the 106th Congress, H.R. 1794, passed the House by voice vote, passed the Senate by unanimous consent, and became Public Law 106-137 in December 1999.

Among the eleven “findings” in H.R. 428 are:

- “Good health is a basic right for every citizen of the world and access to the highest standards of health information and services is necessary to help guarantee this right.”
- “Direct and unobstructed participation in international health cooperation forums and programs is therefore crucial for all parts of the world, especially with today's greater potential for the cross-border spread of various infectious diseases such as AIDS.”
- “Public Law 106-137 required the Secretary of State to submit a report to Congress on efforts by the executive branch to support Taiwan's participation in international organizations, in particular the WHO.”

Cost to Taxpayers: This bill authorizes no additional spending.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.Res. 113— Urging the House of Representatives to support events such as the “Increase the Peace Day” (McKeon)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered under a motion to suspend the rules on Tuesday, April 24th.

Summary: This resolution would urge schools across the United States to create events modeled after Challenger Middle School’s (in Lake Los Angeles, California) “Increase the Peace Day” in order to foster “non-violence, respect, and responsibility.” The resolution outlines as an example a pledge to these three values that students at Challenger Middle sign as part of “Increase the Peace Day”:

- I will honor the memory of the victims of school violence by committing myself to finding a peaceful solution to my own conflicts with others.
- I will not hit another person for any reason.
- I will not threaten another person, even as a joke.
- I will report all rumors of violence to the nearest adult and to all adults who will listen to me.
- I will smile at students I don't know when I make eye contact.
- I will talk to my parents about what takes place in school.
- I will remind myself and others that the diversity of the United States is one of our main strengths.
- I will be aware that I have choices in life and that I am responsible for my own actions.
- I will be considerate of other people and their feelings.
- I will not spread rumors.
- I will not call other people names that are hurtful to them.
- I will help make the world a better place one smile at a time.
- I will ask for help when I am confused or lonely.
- I will make others aware of these pledges in order to spread this message of peace.
- I will take the responsibility as a citizen of this great nation to make our country a more peaceful place by doing my own part to Increase the Peace.

Cost to Taxpayers: None.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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